

## **PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2009**

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in a special meeting with the following members present: Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr., Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore, and Commissioners Billy E. Traylor, Bill Williams, and Warren Yeager.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, and Chief Administrator Don Butler.

Chairman Peters called the Special Meeting to order at 10:45 a.m., E.T.

#### **DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (D.R.A.)**

County Attorney McFarland stated that, at the request of the D.R.A., this meeting was called to discuss any issues the Board may have. County Attorney McFarland informed the Board of their prior decision to object (pursuant to statute) in regard to the modification of boundaries of the D.R.A. He reported that this meeting today does not constitute the meeting which is required by Florida Statutes; that it will be scheduled at a later time. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters, D.R.A. Executive Director Matt Fleck appeared before the Board and stated that he will schedule the meeting between the City of Port St. Joe and the County, according to statutes, regarding the expansion of the D.R.A. once the plan and scope of funds have been drafted. Mr. Fleck discussed the current boundaries of the D.R.A. and improvements already made on Williams Avenue, Reid Avenue and U.S. Highway 98, and plans for additional improvements to be made. D.R.A. Executive Director Fleck stated that the biggest expenditure planned for this year is the U. S. Highway 98 Corridor from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$300,000.00. Fleck further reported on an F.D.O.T. grant awarded to his agency in the amount of \$150,000.00 for landscaping along the U.S. Highway 98 Corridor. Mr. Fleck stated that the D.R.A. has also made a request for funding through the federal stimulus package which is available through F.D.O.T. Chairman Peters stated that the biggest concern of the Board is the boundary lines. Mr. Fleck reported that the current boundaries of the D.R.A. are not in question, but the base year assessed value of the property is, and they are working with the Property Appraisers office to correct this. Upon inquiry by Chairman Peters about the A & N Railroad Building being cut in half, Mr. Fleck reported that the boundary followed the railroad and the building is not included and this will need to be addressed. Chief Administrator Butler stated that the County has paid its entire obligation to the D.R.A. until such time as the base value boundaries have been corrected or clarified. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Traylor, Mr. Fleck reported that the D.R.A. currently receives approximately \$450,000.00 from both the City of Port St. Joe and the County, but could change based on modifications of the boundary lines and assessed property values. Commissioner Yeager stated that he supports the expansion of the D.R.A. into the North Port St. Joe area, stating that it should have been included from the start. County Attorney McFarland informed the

Board that the rules allows for a maximum of 40 years for the D.R.A., instead of 30.

Pastor David Woods of the Church of God in Christ appeared before the Board and reported that he is the C.E.O. for the Community Empowerment Council and stated that they are working with the D.R.A., providing leadership to get North Port St. Joe back in the redevelopment process. Pastor Woods expressed his concerns for the Board to stay focused on the people, stating that his organization was developed to ensure oneness, leadership, and strength to the North Port St. Joe community. After further discussion by the Board, Chairman Peters stated that North Port St. Joe developed one organization to represent this area and the office is located at 207 Avenue C, Port St. Joe, Florida.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner Yeager, the meeting did then adjourn at 11:47 a.m., E.T.

**NATHAN PETERS, JR.**

**CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

**REBECCA L. NORRIS**

**CLERK**